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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Draft decision

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:[1]

Matters relating to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council approves the request of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests to hold its fourth session in New York from 31 January to 11 February 2000.

II. Introduction

1. In accordance with the schedule of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) as endorsed by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, IFF, at its third session, continued consideration of all three elements of the programme of work included in its mandate.

2. The present report contains text on programme elements I and II, which were negotiated at the second and third sessions of IFF. The remaining parts of the text covering programme elements I and II will be further negotiated during the fourth session of IFF. For programme element III, the present report includes a compilation text presented by the Co-Chairmen, which reflects the discussions on this programme element that took place at the third session of IFF. It also includes a decision providing guidance to the Secretariat for the preparation of documentation under this programme element for the fourth session of IFF (see sect. V).

3. IFF reiterated the understanding, reached at its first session, that all elements of the programme of work included in the IFF mandate are open for discussion until the fourth session of IFF (see E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 9).

4. IFF also reiterated the provisions of paragraph 12 of its report on its first session, and expressed its appreciation to the organizers of government-lead initiatives undertaken in support of its third and fourth sessions, including:

(a) A six country initiative on putting the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) proposals for action into practice at the national level, sponsored by Finland, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(b) An international consultation on research and information systems in forestry, organized by Austria and Indonesia, in cooperation with FAO, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO);

(c) An international expert workshop and in-depth study on forest conservation and protected areas, organized by Australia;

(d) A meeting on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, hosted by Costa Rica and organized by NGOs and the Government of Costa Rica, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

(e) International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, in support of IFF programme element III, sponsored by the Governments of Costa Rica and Canada;

(f) An international expert meeting on protected forest areas, co-sponsored by the Governments of Brazil and the United States of America;

(g) A study on the global outlook for plantations, sponsored by the Government of Australia;

(h) An international expert meeting on the role of planted forests, sponsored by the Governments of Chile, Denmark, India, New Zealand and Portugal;

(i) An open-ended international expert meeting on special needs and requirements of developing countries with low forest cover and unique types of forests, organized by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with other interested countries and international organizations, scheduled for the first week of October 1999.

5. IFF expressed its appreciation to Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations that had organized various side events and presentations during the session, which provided for an in-depth consideration of a number of important issues of the IFF work programme and enriched its deliberations.

[1] Subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999 (see Council decision 1999/280).

6. IFF expressed its appreciation to the IFF secretariat as well as to member organizations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests (ITFF) for their important work and contributions in support of its deliberations.

7. IFF expressed its appreciation to those Governments and organizations that had made generous voluntary contributions in support of the work of IFF and its secretariat. However, bearing in mind the fact that the work of the secretariat depends solely on extrabudgetary resources, IFF appealed to all interested Governments and organizations to make additional voluntary contributions in order to enable the secretariat to continue to provide high-quality support for its work.

III. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element I)

A. Promoting and facilitating implementation (programme element I.a)

This programme element was not discussed by IFF at its third session; for the IFF conclusions on programme element I.a at its second session, see E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. I.A.

B. Monitoring progress in implementation (programme element I.b)

Conclusions

1. IFF recognized that there are various aspects to data collection, monitoring, assessment and reporting. One aspect relates to assessing progress in implementation of the IPF proposals for action in terms of existing and, if appropriate, new legislation, policies, programmes and processes. Another aspect relates to assessing trends in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests as well as the state of forests, and to make the best use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. IFF also recognized that the national implementation of criteria and indicators and assessing progress is affected by enabling conditions and mechanisms, including financial and technical resources. The primary value and benefits of reviewing, monitoring and reporting is at the national level. Efforts should be made to make national data timely, accurate and internationally comparable, as well as transparent and accessible to all interested parties.

2. The collection, assessment, monitoring, organization, reporting and dissemination of data can involve substantial costs and institutional capacity. Therefore, efforts should be made to avoid duplication by utilizing, where appropriate, existing reporting systems of international organizations and instruments, and by harmonizing, where appropriate, existing monitoring and reporting systems.

3. There is a need to build and strengthen institutional, technical and human capacity at the national level to enable periodic monitoring of the state of forests in order to measure and report on policy effectiveness and progress towards sustainable forest management as well as to identify priority areas of action. Monitoring, assessment and reporting activities should be integrated into national forest programmes. Approaches to strengthening national capacities should be practical and cost-effective.

4. Cooperation, coordination and partnership among countries and between countries and organizations would assist capacity-building. In this regard, greater priority should be given by all countries to financial and technical assistance programmes and the transfer of technology to help developing countries to strengthen their capacity for reviewing, monitoring and reporting.

5. There is also a need to develop a better common understanding of key concepts, definitions and terms at both the national and international levels as well as greater comparability of data that permits aggregation at the regional and global levels. This would assist countries in meeting the various demands for reviewing, monitoring and reporting on forests by international instruments, multilateral organizations, and various regional and international criteria and indicator processes.

6. Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are important tools for reviewing, monitoring and reporting on the state of and trends in all types of forests and for assessing progress towards sustainable forest management. Incorporating the results of criteria and indicators, for instance, in voluntary national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as to the FAO global forest resources assessment, national forest

programmes reporting, and the *State of the World's Forests* reporting would provide useful bases to assess progress towards management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Proposals for action

7. IFF recalled the IPF proposals for action that are relevant to this category (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 17 (i), 17 (g), 70 (c), 77 (f), 78 (b), 78 (c),115 (a) and 115 (b)).

8. IFF encouraged countries to:

(a) Prepare national information on the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests as the basis for any consolidated information on forests at the international level. [Adequate financial resources, both domestic and international, should be available for capacity-building and implementation of national reporting initiatives;]

(b) Make forest-related information for reviewing, monitoring and reporting progress in implementation of sustainable forest management widely available and accessible to policy makers and to interested groups, noting the important role that subnational levels of government and interested groups play in contributing to assessment and information gathering;

(c) Report on the implementation of IPF proposals for action in the context of reporting on forests to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, taking into account, where appropriate, the process used to assess the relevance of the proposals and priorities for action, the organizations and interested parties involved, and noting progress made and the areas where new actions could be undertaken;

(d) Further develop and implement, with the support of international organizations, as appropriate, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and use them as a basis for reviewing, monitoring and reporting national trends in the state of forests, as well as progress on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;

(e) Encourage the donor community to assist developing countries in preparing national information and reports on forests, recognizing that information collection and reporting are costly activities.

9. IFF encouraged ITFF member organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations to:

(a) Consult with countries regarding collection and synthesis of national information, [with a view to validate the information synthesized,] and give effective feedback on the overall results of data collection and reporting and make such information widely available and accessible to policy makers and to interested groups.

10. IFF encouraged countries, ITFF member organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations to:

(a) Develop harmonized, cost-effective, comprehensive reporting formats for collecting and synthesizing national forest information to meet the diverse demands for reliable and timely data by various forest-related international organizations and instruments. There is a need to incorporate information on relevant criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including indicators on environmental, social and economic functions, such as non-wood products, forest resources and services, and the competitiveness of forest products at the domestic and international levels, into such reporting formats in order to reduce reporting burdens on countries and increase the timeliness and consistency of reporting;

(b) Improve the effectiveness of coordination and partnership within countries and with international organizations and instruments as a means of building the capacity in developing countries for periodic and timely collection, review, synthesis and utilization of information related to sustainable forest management.

IV. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process (programme element II)

A. Need for financial resources (programme element II.a)

Conclusions

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests reiterated the proposals for action on financial assistance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and emphasized their [continuing]/[increasing] relevance and validity. There is a[n urgent] need to [significantly] increase both domestic and international public and private funding in support of [sustainable forest management (SFM)]/[management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of

forests]. [New and additional] financing for SFM is required in many developing countries. It is important to increase efficiency and effectiveness of available resources and mechanisms. There are aspects of SFM that [require]/[can benefit from] private sector financing[,] while [others require] public funding [and] [.] ODA [is]/[are] particularly needed for capacity-building in developing countries [and to catalyse private sector funding] and to finance environmentally sound development projects and programmes according to national priorities. Developing countries, particularly the least developed countries [and countries with low forest cover] need special consideration in financial cooperation [, taking into account the needs of countries with low forest cover among them] to meet their needs for forest products and services [and to enable poor countries with low forest cover to expand their area of forest cover].

2. [Financial flows into the forest sector should support national forest programmes.] Mobilizing [international and] domestic resources requires strategies that address both increasing public financing for forests as well as creating an adequate policy environment for private investments in SFM. In the case of domestic public and private sources, the major goals are to increase revenues from forest products and services [and to ensure necessary reinvestment for SFM]/[including biological resources of forests]. [SFM should be considered one of the priorities in financial resource allocation at the national level.] IFF recognized the need for adequate investment to promote SFM.

3. There are a number of [barriers [and disincentives] that restrain] [disincentives to] private investment in SFM, such as those related to [typical] market and policy failures as well as those related to the specific characteristics of forestry, such as risk and uncertainties associated with long rotation periods, [and] uneven distribution of benefits and costs over time [, and often poorly defined tenure rights].

4. Private sector resources are [an increasingly] [a] key component of a SFM financing strategy, and their mobilization involves directing financial flows from unsustainable to sustainable forestry by [removing barriers to] [, and establish incentives for]/[providing necessary incentives to encourage] investment in SFM activities. [However,] private sector financing [, complemented by public financing,] is essential [but not sufficient] for ensuring the enhancement of the environmental [and]/[,] social [and economic] functions of forests. Public financing is, therefore, critical to [remove structural barriers to SFM]/[promote and ensure policy and reform processes as well as appropriate legal and institutional frameworks needed for further progress in sustainable forest management]. Both international and domestic public financing [should]/[could] play an [essential]/[important] catalytic role in [this process] [of barrier removal]/[mobilizing private sector resources].

5. [SFM should be [recognized as]/[considered] [a priority]/[one of the priorities] *in [domestic] financial* resource allocation at the national level [as well as in programming available ODA]. Financial flows into the forest sector should support [and be consistent with] [the development and implementation of] national forest programmes. [This would also contribute to promoting prioritized investment decisions and facilitating coordinated and effective use of financial resources available for activities in support of SFM.]]

6. The more effective use of all financial resources also depends on [a well trained and equitably remunerated civil service; a stable security environment; [the involvement and participation of local stakeholders] and intolerance of corruption]/[management capacity]. [Management]/[Administrative] capacity]/[IFF recognized that capacity-building]/[Capacity-building] is essential for the better utilization of [any increased]/[existing as well as additional] international public funding for SFM.

7. [Many]/[Some] donor countries and organizations fund forest-related activities within integrated programmes [agreed upon with developing countries]. Availability of timely and relevant information on [public and private, domestic and international] financial flows and financial mechanisms could help countries [and their cooperation partners] take more focused actions to support SFM. [There is a need, however, to develop cost-effective and efficient information systems.] Country case studies could be an appropriate way to further understand the role [, and ensure effectiveness] of financial flows in achieving SFM.

8. [IFF noted that within their current mandates and frameworks [and in the absence of unified governance structure], the existing international financial arrangements and funds [have]/[provide different options as well as specific] limitations in supporting SFM[, and]/[.] [more effective use and/or] [t]/[T]heir possible expansion [and refinement of mandates and frameworks] merits further consideration.] *It was suggested that establishment of an* international forest fund needs to be considered [as a possible option]. However, reservations were also voiced in this regard] [*and no consensus has yet been reached*]. [*The* creation of favourable policy framework in recipient countries was considered an important prerequisite for increased financial flows to the forest sector.]

9. The concept of an investment promotion entity to mobilize private sector investment in SFM [was found to be interesting, and]/[in both developed and developing countries] deserves further consideration. However, any such mechanism should not require the creation of a new organization but instead could be integrated within existing institutions. Furthermore, private sector investment [, while essential,] [should not]/[cannot] be considered a substitute for [international public funding]/[ODA].

10. [The Forum recognized that the ability of developing countries to benefit from international financial resources and flows depends on their absorptive capacity, which in many cases is limited.]

11. [IFF recognized that developed countries should fulfil the commitments undertaken to reach the accepted United Nations target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national product to ODA as soon as possible.]

Proposals for action

[IFF recalled the IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 67-71).]

12. IFF called upon countries and relevant international organizations to:

a. pre. [Consider the creation of an international forest fund as a financial mechanism to promote SFM];

(a) [Make]/[To increase their] efforts to increase financial assistance to SFM in developing countries, and to direct such assistance to priorities identified in [their]/[the] national forest programmes [or other integrated programmes] [of those countries], thereby increasing the effectiveness of available resources]. (It was suggested that the present paragraph repeats IPF proposal 67.d and should be deleted);

(b) [Further explore the potential of innovative financial mechanisms to promote SFM, taking into account the full range of goods and services [, including the biological resources,] provided by forests. Assist countries in identifying and further developing innovative financial mechanisms, and share experiences and information on such mechanisms;] (It was suggested that the present paragraph repeats IPF proposals 67.b and c and should be deleted);

(c) [Encourage private investments in SFM by providing a stable and transparent investment environment and an adequate regulatory framework [, both at domestic and international levels;] (It was suggested that the present paragraph repeats IPF proposal 69.d and c and should be deleted);

(d) [Consider [, in the context of new international arrangement,] the possibility of creating an international forest fund [or mechanism] and its merits in promoting SFM] [while taking into account the need for a favourable policy framework in recipient countries as an important prerequisite for increased financial flows to the forest sector;] (It was suggested that the present paragraph repeats the IPF proposals for action and should be deleted);

(d) *bis* [Make use of national forest programmes, where applicable, to identify appropriate financial strategies and funding requirements for SFM and promote effective utilization of available financial resources;]

(e) [Undertake activities for systematic collection and analysis of financial flows data in the forest sector in order to enable informed and rational policy decisions based on reliable information;]

or

[Undertake country case studies to collect information to better understand the role of public and private financial flows from domestic and international sources in promoting SFM;]

(e) *bis* [Consider the need for preparing a study integrating such issues as the valuation of forest goods and services, including biological resources, and the international trade of forest goods, taking due account of the effects of international restrictions, such as tariff escalations, and other protective measures;]

(f) Consider [expanding the scope]/[more effective use]/[Make full use of the potential]/ of existing mechanisms, such as GEF, consistent with their mandates, for financing a wider range of SFM activities;

(g) Conduct a preparatory study on the feasibility of an investment promotion entity, taking into account [relevant existing financial institutions and sources and] the functions and circumstances under which such an entity would operate;

(h) Give special consideration to providing financial assistance to [least developed countries and countries with low forest cover]/[developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, taking also into account the needs of countries with low forest cover among them].

B. Trade and environment (programme element II.b)

Conclusions

1. Mutually supportive trade and environment policies can effectively promote the achievement of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Given that trade and environment policies have their specific objectives, decision makers, including trade partners, should contribute to achieving trade in wood and non-wood forest products and services from sustainable managed forests, and implement policies and actions, in particular, avoiding policies that have adverse effects, either on trade or on the sustainable management of all types of forests. It is important to take into account the needs of developing countries for social and economic development and environmental protection, in particular poverty alleviation.

2. The impact that international trade in wood and non-wood forest products has on sustainable forest management can be both positive and negative. Trade liberalization adds value to the resource and has the potential to promote economic development, contribute to poverty alleviation and reduce environmental degradation, provided it is accompanied by sound environmental and social policies. However, trade liberalization must not be a vehicle for undermining domestic environmental and health standards which are consistent with international trade rules. Countries should study the positive and negative impacts of trade policies on sustainable forest management. The Uruguay Round yielded significant reductions to tariffs affecting forest products. Special attention should be given to remaining and emerging trade restrictions which constrain market access, particularly for value-added products. Trade measures intended to promote sustainable forest management should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.

3. IFF recognized the potential role of voluntary certification of forest management and labelling of forest products as among the potential tools in promoting sustainable forest management and differentiating forest products and services in the market. However, more practical experience is necessary to reach conclusions on the effectiveness of such programmes. Moreover, unsuitable design or non-transparent application of such schemes may in some cases lead to unjustified obstacles to market access. In particular, small and medium-sized forest owners and enterprises, including those of developing countries, may find it excessively costly to implement certification and/or labelling schemes. In the context of these issues, IFF took note of the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with regard to voluntary eco-labelling schemes. The proliferation of certification and/or labelling schemes calls for further cooperative work, in line with IPF recommendations, towards achieving their international comparability and considering their equivalency while taking into account the diversity of national and regional situations.

4. Forest products and services and their substitutes should be adequately valued through full-cost internalization, which in turn would influence competitiveness of these products and services. In this context, countries should undertake analyses of the implications of such valuation on forest management and economic development. Countries should also implement full-cost internalization strategies for forest products and services and their substitutes, taking into consideration the potential costs and benefits of improved efficiency and sustainability of the forest sector.

5. Some available studies carried out on the relative full life-cycle analysis of the environmental impacts of forest products, and their substitutes suggest that the former may be preferable, but further work on such life-cycle analysis is needed.

6. Increased market transparency is essential in order to improve the market access for forest products and services [, including those coming from sustainable managed forests]. In this regard, the role of the private sector is vital but action is also needed by all interested parties to improve market transparency. A better understanding by both producers and consumers of the potential relationship between trade in forest products, forest services and their substitutes and sustainable forest management could help to promote responsible choices in the supply and demand for forest products, forest services and their substitutes.

7. The nature and extent of illegal trade in wood and non-wood forest products [, including forest biological resources,] is a serious concern due to damage to ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, lost revenue by Governments, forest owners and local and/or indigenous communities, and distortion of markets for forest products and services. National policies and international cooperation are important to reduce illegal trade with the aim towards its elimination.

8. Recent changes in the markets for forest products, such as those caused by the recent financial crisis, have raised concerns on the ability to continue the implementation of

measures aimed at sustainable forest management but have at the same time increased the need for it. The long-term impacts of such unpredictable events on efforts to promote sustainable forest management need examination and monitoring. Such situations highlight the need to develop strategies for sustainable forest management with a long-term perspective so that the negative effects of short-term market changes can be minimized.

9. Developing countries with low forest cover and small island countries have special problems in developing their forest sectors to meet local needs for forest products and services. They depend, in many areas, on other countries to satisfy their needs for forest goods and services. Trade is essential to meet such needs, and international economic and trade policies may have serious impacts on the efforts of these countries to expand and rehabilitate their forest cover.

Proposals for action

10. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on trade and environment. In order to further their effective implementation IFF:

(a) Urged countries, including trade partners, to contribute to achieving trade in wood and non-wood products and services from sustainable managed forests, and implement policies and actions, in particular avoiding policies that have adverse effects, either on trade or on sustainable forest management;

(b) [Supported continued efforts by countries and the World Trade Organization towards trade liberalization giving special attention to removing remaining and emerging trade restrictions which constrain market access, particularly for value added forest products;]

(c) [Urged countries, international organizations [including WTO] and other interested parties to undertake further cooperative work on certification and/or voluntary labelling schemes, in line with the recommendations of IPF, towards achieving their international comparability and considering their equivalence, taking into account the diversity of national and regional situations [and to ensure that such schemes do not lead to unjustified obstacles to market access;]]

(c) *bis* [[and to ensure such schemes do not lead to unjustified obstacles to market access.] Urged that when voluntary certification and/or labelling schemes are developed and applied, they be done so in a way to promote sustainable forest management and to avoid unjustified obstacles to market access;]

(d) Urged countries to undertake analyses of the implications of full-cost internalization on forest management and economic development and implement full-cost internalization strategies for forest products and services and their substitutes;

(e) Requested countries, international organizations and other interested parties to undertake further work on full life-cycle analysis of the environmental impacts of forest products and their substitutes;

(f) Called upon all interested parties to take action to improve market transparency, taking into account the role of the private sector, to help promote responsible producer and consumer choices in the supply and demand for forest products, forest services and their substitutes;

(g) Called upon countries to consider appropriate national-level actions and promote international cooperation to reduce the illegal trade in wood and non-wood forest products [including biological resources] with the aim of its elimination;

(h) Urged countries to develop strategies for sustainable forest management with a long-term perspective so that the negative effects of short-term market changes, such as the recent regional financial crises, can be minimized;

(i) Urged countries to recognize the special importance of imports of forest products for countries with low forest cover and fragile forest ecosystems, and small island developing States to satisfy their needs for forest products and services to assist them in expanding and rehabilitating their forest cover.

C. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (programme element II.c)

Conclusions

1. IFF reiterated the importance of the Forest Principles, chapter 34 of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex) and decision 6/3 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session, to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies in support of the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. IFF emphasized the strong links among sustainable forest management and transfer of technologies, capacity-building and institution-

building, investment and financing from both public and private sources.

2. Although not every constraint to sustainable forest management can be alleviated by the transfer of technology, IFF emphasized that improved access to and utilization of environmentally sound technologies have great potential for enhancing sustainable forest management. Indeed, policy environments and measures favourable to sustainable forest management and investment are as important as the availability and appropriate application of the technologies themselves.

3. Efforts to enhance technology cooperation through the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies should recognize the important but differentiated contributions of the public and private sectors, while stressing the governmental role in developing and fostering an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework.

4. National forest programmes, as described in the report of IPF on its fourth session (see E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 17 (a)), should facilitate development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies in support of sustainable forest management and forest products processing. There is a need to further the participation of interested parties in forest-related technology development and to facilitate efficient adaptation and use of technologies and know-how, in accordance with national legislation, through partnerships among the public and private sectors, including research centres, universities and companies, and indigenous people, local communities and non-governmental organizations.

5. There is a wide range of available environmentally sound technologies, particularly in developed countries, that can support sustainable forest management. The policies, actions and types of financing that are needed for efficient selection, transfer, adaptation and use of these technologies vary, depending on the type of technology, local conditions and intended use. They should be demand-driven and consistent with national priorities for sustainable forest management, as expressed in management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and, where appropriate, should be reflected in national forest programmes. [IFF stressed that the international community should promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.]

6. Efforts for the comprehensive assessment of technology needs and suitability have been insufficient so far. Many countries, in particular developing countries, need to strengthen their capacities for assessment of the environmental soundness, economic sustainability and social impacts of technologies.

7. Developing low forest cover countries have technological needs related to, in particular, afforestation for land rehabilitation, reforestation and restoration of degraded forests and for sustainable management of existing, often unique, forests.

8. Opportunities do exist to finance and support North-South technology transfer through ODA. Further opportunities also exist to finance and support North-South cooperation in technology transfer through public and private partnerships, joint ventures and foreign direct investments. There is also an important role for international organizations in the dissemination and facilitation of transfer of existing knowledge. Efficient and effective private-sector involvement in North-South technology transfer depends on mutual interests and an appropriate enabling environment, including promoting policy instruments aimed at creating a favourable environment to attract foreign private investment. International and regional organizations have an important role to play in the field of forest-related technology transfer. Regional networks could contribute to a more effective and efficient use of already existing technologies.

9. South-South cooperation is complementary to North-South transfer of technology and know-how. There is potential for further strengthening of South-South transfer of technology and know-how. Technologies generated in the South may be more accessible, more applicable and less costly and have greater potential for diffusion than some technologies developed in the North. Environmentally sound indigenous technologies, including traditional forest-related knowledge, should be given special attention, as appropriate, and transfer of such technologies or know-how must be carried out with the consent of the holder and according to national legislation.

10. IFF recognized the importance of technologies related to biological resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity) of forests. In this respect, cooperation between developed and developing countries should be strengthened on transferring and, as required, developing technologies for the sustainable use of biological resources (as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity) of

forests, as they relate to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests consistent with and building on progress under the Convention on Biological Diversity and without prejudice to the commitments undertaken by parties to the Convention within its scope.

11. To date, relatively little attention has been given to the need for increased technology and know-how diffusion to end-users through forest extension services. Some countries have, to that end, effective mechanisms and/or extension programmes, which have a significant potential to be emulated by a broader set of countries.

12. There is an urgent need for implementation of modern, appropriate environmentally sound wood energy technologies, which would enable more efficient use of waste and by-products created by forest logging and wood processing, as well as wood harvested for fuelwood, for both industrial and household uses.

13. Focused attention should be given to gender mainstreaming related to capacity-building and technology transfer, particularly in the context of wood energy use, tree cultivation for household energy use, sustainable forest management and tenure, and ownership of forests and lands designated for afforestation. Appropriate technologies for the use of wood as an energy source at the rural household level have a great potential to enhance the health and socio-economic status of women in many developing countries.

Proposals

14. IFF stressed the importance of implementing IPF proposals for action on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF [Urged the establishment of an environmentally sound technology transfer mechanism to enhance the technology transfer from the developed countries to developing countries;]

or

Alt. (1) 14. [IFF stressed the need for the enhancement of technology transfer from developed to developing countries through the implementation of the IPF proposals for action and decision 6/3 of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF urged the exploration of ways to address shortcomings in the operation of existing mechanisms and the appraisal of possible new mechanisms to encourage more effective transfers;]

or

Alt. (2) 14. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF:

[(a) Urged countries, on the basis of paragraph 4 (f) of decision 6/3 of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the IPF proposals for action (see E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 77 (g)) to initiate action towards the establishment of new mechanisms to enhance the technology transfer from developed countries to developing countries;]

(b) Urged all countries to develop an enabling policy, legal and institutional framework that encourages appropriate public and private sector investments in environmentally sound technologies for sustainable forest management in line with the respective national forest programmes, where applicable;

(c) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to support the strengthening of cooperation between institutions to facilitate the assessment of needs for adaptation and transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies through North-South and South-South cooperation. Those institutions recognized as [centres of excellence] should act as [clearing houses][focal points] that could expedite the flow of these technologies;

(d) Urged all countries to recognize the importance of the transfer of technologies to developing countries and economies in transition, including human and institutional capacity-building, as an integral part of the process of investment and sustainable development; and the importance of combining technology transfer with training, education and institutional strengthening in order to promote effective use and broad dissemination of environmentally sound technologies;

[(e) Urged all countries, in particular developed countries, to take [further] concrete measures to put into practice the recommendations of Agenda 21, the Commission on Sustainable Development and IPF on transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, and in this context to [explore ways to] support [these countries to develop appropriate technologies and corresponding know-how that are necessary] or [the development of appropriate technologies and corresponding know-how within these countries] to enhance their capacities to implement sustainable forest management;]

or

[(e) Urged all countries, particularly developed countries, to take [active] measures to promote and facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights [in order to support the implementation of sustainable forest management;]

(f) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to consider practical measures to promote the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to end-users, particularly in local communities in developing countries, through the efficient use of extension services;

(g) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to enhance partnerships, and to initiate, as appropriate, coordinate and cooperate in forest-related technical and financial assistance and capacity-building in respect of the transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies;

(h) Underscored the importance of assisting developing countries with low forest cover and those with fragile forest ecosystems in their efforts in respect of capacity-building that would facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to address those needs;

[(i) Urged developed countries that are making use of the forest biodiversity of developing countries to share the results of the research therein and the benefits associated with the utilization of forest biodiversity based on the application of the research in forest biological resources, including the giving of due recognition to this source of biological resources utilization in patent applications for technologies, in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity;]

or

[(i) Underscored the importance of sharing the benefits, as well as the results of the research on forest biological resources, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the IPF proposals for action;]

[(j) Encouraged countries to develop appropriate [national] mechanisms and/or measures to enable indigenous people, local communities and forest-dependent groups to realize the potential benefits of traditional forest-related knowledge in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity, through the establishment and enforcement of intellectual property rights linked to this knowledge [including the giving of due recognition to the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in patent applications for technologies];]

(k) Urged all countries, in particular developed countries, to pursue actions that would facilitate the transfer, development and application of environmentally sound technologies for and analyse the implications of the use of wood and non-wood by-products created by forest harvesting and wood processing for industrial and domestic purposes, giving special attention to wood-waste materials as an energy source;

(l) Called upon countries to undertake steps to ensure equal opportunities for women, in particular indigenous women and women in rural areas, to become beneficiaries of environmentally sound forest-related technologies, know-how and extension services;

(m) Urged countries to strengthen outreach programmes targeted at women in the areas of education, training and microcredit, related to community development programmes and household use of wood, wood lots for fuelwood and energy-efficient cooking technology;

(n) Urged countries and relevant international organizations to use data and information that are disaggregated by gender in sectoral surveys and studies used in the development of technologies for sustainable forest management policies and projects.

D. Issues that need further clarification (programme element II.d)

1. Underlying causes of deforestation (programme element II.d (i))

Conclusions

1. IFF reiterated the need for the implementation of the proposals for action on this programme element adopted by IPF, and noted their continuing relevance and validity. In this context, it noted the recommendations of the global workshop held in Costa Rica in January 1999.

2. To overcome major obstacles when addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, IFF stressed the importance of policy consistency inside and outside the forest sector. Furthermore, it emphasized the need for effective policy coordination for addressing underlying causes of deforestation, which are often interrelated and social and economic in character and include poverty, lack of secure land tenure patterns, inadequate recognition of the rights and needs of forest-dependent

indigenous and local communities within national laws and jurisdiction, inadequate cross-sectoral policies, undervaluation of forest products and services; lack of participation; issues of governance; absence of a supportive economic climate that supports sustainable forest management, [corruption and illegal trade]; lack of capacity; lack of enabling environment, at both the national and international levels; and national policies that distort market and encourage forest lands conversion to other uses, including in low forest cover lands. It was further noted that the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation as well as the approaches to deal with them are often country specific and therefore vary among countries.

3. IFF continued to recognize the need for analysis at the national and international levels of the sequence of causes contributing to changes in the quantity and quality of forests, in particular by using the diagnostic framework referred to in the report of IPF on its fourth session (see E/CN.17/IFF/1999/12, para. 31).

4. IFF, while recognizing the important role of Governments in establishing national policies in their respective countries towards attaining sustainable forest management, stressed that the private sector, both in developing and developed countries, also has an important role to play in forest policy development and implementation. Combating deforestation requires the involvement of many actors, including national and subnational governments, civil society, forest owners, international organizations, the private sector, research organizations, and international and bilateral aid agencies. Broad participation of indigenous and local communities (including indigenous people and other forest-dependent people practising traditional lifestyles, forest owners and local communities, many of whom possess important traditional forest-related knowledge; see General Assembly resolution A/S-19/2, annex, para. 37) and women in forest-related processes is needed. All actors need to work together to initiate processes, both at the national and international levels, to address effectively underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

5. A major challenge which now lies ahead concerning deforestation is the implementation of the IPF proposals for action. For developing countries, this involves responding to political, financial and technical needs and priority to national forest policies and programmes; for country donors and international organizations, it involves more focused cooperation and coordination in support of their efforts on agreed priority areas for action.

6. [The valuation of all goods and services, including biological resources provided by forests, is needed to realize its importance compared with other land uses. Under-valuation of natural forests is an important underlying cause of deforestation. The non-valuation of non-marketable environmental and social services of forests is a market failure, and perverse subsidies that encourage conversion of forested lands should be discouraged. Deforestation is closely related with the lack of economic and financial competitiveness of sustainable forest management compared with other alternative uses of the land. Current economic valuation of forest resources has often resulted in inadequate incentives for sustainable resource use, which in turn induce environmental degradation. The pricing of forest goods and services as well as their substitutes should include environmental and social costs and benefits.]

Proposals for action

7. IFF recalls the following IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (see E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 17 (e), 17 (f), 27 to 31, 67 (g), 70 (c) and 77 (f)).

8. IFF stressed the importance of implementing the IPF proposals for action on underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, with particular emphasis on the needs and requirements of low forest cover countries and countries with fragile forest ecosystems. In order to further their effective implementation, IFF encouraged countries, with the assistance of international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions, to implement the following additional proposals through partnerships involving, where appropriate, the participation of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, indigenous and local communities, forest owners and the private sector:

(a) Further study and take practical measures to address the chains of causality of the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation within each country, including the impact of poverty as well as the impact of processes outside the forest sector;

(b) Create appropriate procedures in order to promote effective participation of all interested parties in decision-making about forest management;

(c) Support appropriate land tenure law and/or arrangements as a means to define clearly land ownership, as well as the rights of indigenous and local communities and forest owners, for the sustainable use of forest resources, taking into account the sovereign right of each country and its legal framework;

(d) Develop mechanisms, as appropriate, to improve land access and use of forest resources on a sustainable basis;

(e) Support capacity-building in communities, in particular for those with responsibilities in forest management, including in low forest cover countries, and create awareness in the society at large on the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation;

(f) [Provide technical guidance, national and international economic incentives and, where appropriate, legal frameworks to promote community involvement in sustainable forest management;]

(g) Promote maintenance and enhancement of forest resources through sustainable forest management practices, and promote the creation of new forest resources through the establishment of planted forests and other means, such as rehabilitation of degraded forests, taking into consideration their social, cultural and environmental impacts, and economic costs and benefits;

(h) [Identify and measure the lack of internalization of externalities, and introduce positive incentives which may contribute to combat deforestation and forest degradation both in the forest and non-forest sectors;]

(i) Support local community programmes for capacity-building and credit facilities, and facilitate access to markets of forest products and services to [external] markets;

(j) [Request international financial institutions to analyse the impacts of foreign debt on major underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, such as poverty, and on forest resources, and explore, in cooperation with donor and recipient countries, innovative debt reduction schemes for countries that take significant steps to combat deforestation and forest degradation;]

9. [IFF invited countries to work with international financial institutions to establish transparent decision-making procedures regarding structural adjustment policies, and to harmonize these policies with agreed national sustainable development objectives.]

10. IFF also invited countries to use national forest programmes, as appropriate, or other relevant programmes to involve indigenous and local communities and women to participate in the formulation and implementation of measures that aim to protect their rights and privileges in relation to forest lands, traditional forest-related knowledge and forest [biological] resources.

11. IFF encouraged ITFF member organizations to support the elaboration of a comprehensive study of land tenure issues related to deforestation and forest degradation.

2. Traditional forest-related knowledge (programme element II.d (ii))

Conclusions

1. The involvement of indigenous people and local communities (including indigenous people and other forest-dependent people practising traditional lifestyles, forest owners and local communities, many of whom possess important traditional forest-related knowledge; see General Assembly resolution A/S-19/2, annex, para. 37) and the understanding and use of their traditional knowledge, as well as recognition of their rights to the natural resources in their traditional areas within national laws and jurisdiction, can support the formulation, design, implementation and monitoring of policies towards sustainable forest management. The sharing and application of this knowledge can help interested parties to avoid procedures that impact unfavourably on ecosystems and local social systems. Traditional knowledge can complement new technologies, and might be adapted and used more widely. In this context, IFF recalled relevant IPF proposals for action (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 40 (r)).

2. IFF recognized the need to further explore the modalities for promoting greater recognition, respect and protection of traditional forest-related knowledge involved in sustainable forest management. Further understanding of the role of traditional forest-related knowledge in sustainable forest management can be achieved by identifying traditional systems that promote management, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, in accordance with article 8 (j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and proposals for action derived from the IPF/IFF process.

3. Several processes relevant to the application and development of legal and other forms of protection of traditional forest-related knowledge are being addressed through different international organizations and instruments. There should be a close cooperation and coordination between the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action. While recognizing the importance of the work of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Convention, effective protection mechanisms for traditional knowledge systems and practices, and recalling the proposed memorandum of understanding between WIPO and the Convention, [IFF stressed that

further work is required to help develop a common appreciation and understanding of the relationship between the current intellectual property rights and patents systems, the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity.]

4. In keeping with Agenda 21, chapter 26, and also noting the relevant ILO Convention, IFF recognized the critical importance of the rights of indigenous and local communities to participate in the conservation and management of all types of forests and forest biological resources.

5. IFF noted and welcomed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on article 8 (j) and related provisions of the CBD where there is participation of indigenous and local communities.

Proposals for action

6. IFF recalled IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 40 (a) to 40 (r) and 132 (c)).

7. IFF called upon countries to:

(a) Implement measures for greater [legal] recognition, respect and protection of traditional forest-related knowledge, in sustainable forest management, including forest biological resources, taking into account the relevant work being advanced by the Convention on Biological Diversity. [The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group, in its programme of work, should include options for collecting, recording and location of traditional forest-related knowledge, as well as establishing prior informed consent of access to such knowledge;]

(b) [Promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits, including payments, where appropriate, arising from the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices, in accordance with article 8 (j) and related provisions of articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention with the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;]

(c) [Encourage consistency between trade-related intellectual property rights agreements and traditional forest-related knowledge of indigenous people and local communities, and address the identification of the origin of traditional knowledge and of genetic resources in future negotiations concerned with request of patents;]

(d) [Invite the secretariat of the Convention, in collaboration with CIFOR, IUFRO and FAO, to prepare an overview on possible approaches to identifying, collecting and recording traditional forest-related knowledge in consultation and cooperation with the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices for better benefits sharing, including examples of the application of traditional forest-related knowledge both on its own and other relevant forms of knowledge;]

(e) [Develop at the national level legislation and policies to achieve objectives under articles 8 (j), 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, as well as at the international level, to provide the necessary legal framework.]

3. Forest conservation and protected areas (programme element II.d (iii))

Conclusions

1. IFF noted the outcome of the in-depth study on the theme "International forest conservation: protected areas and beyond" sponsored by the Government of Australia, and the recommendations of the international expert meeting on protected forest areas co-sponsored by the Governments of the United States and Brazil.

2. IFF recognized the importance of an ecosystem approach which underlines forest conservation and protection as an integral component of sustainable forest management. The establishment and management of protected forest areas within an ecosystem approach can contribute significantly to local economies and non-market benefits to society in the form of flood control, soil and watershed protection, and other ecological services essential to human well-being.

3. IFF acknowledged that existing protected areas are important in protecting a number of forest values and represent considerable effort and achievement on the part of all concerned in their establishment and management. However, it was noted that fragmentation of forest land may be a constraint to the effective protection of biodiversity and ecological functions of forest areas. In a number of countries, existing protected areas are not, in themselves, sufficient to maintain forest conservation objectives. Forest conservation cannot be based solely on a rigid demarcation between protected areas and all other forms of land use, in particular commercial forest use. Where possible, protected areas should form part of a landscape continuum, where the conservation of biological diversity, environmental services and other values are also accorded priority in the wider context of other forest management and land use practices in surrounding areas.

4. Most countries have adopted legislation, policies and strategies towards landscape management, biological diversity, forest conservation and protected areas. However,

implementation and enforcement of these policies and laws in many countries is inadequate. Inadequacy in the implementation of policies for forest conservation and protected areas, due to insufficient coordination of conflicting policies and practices, inappropriate implementation strategies, or lack of political will and financial and human resources, are widely recognized as the major reasons for the failure to achieve forest conservation goals in some countries. The management effectiveness of protected areas can be assessed in terms of security of status through the implementation of appropriate legislation, the effectiveness of protection of biodiversity and ecological values, institutional capacity, positive social impacts and the level of support from indigenous and local communities (including indigenous people and other forest-dependent people practising traditional lifestyles, forest owners and local communities, many of whom possess important traditional forest-related knowledge, see General Assembly resolution A/S-19/2, annex, para. 37), and adequate financial support both at national and international levels.

5. There are several existing categories of protected areas. The one developed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas is being used by many countries, United Nations institutions and major groups. IUCN is currently working with other organizations and countries to interpret these categories for use in national and international statistics. These categories need to be more flexible in order to encompass the wide range of forest protection regimes existing in various countries. There is also a need to develop common understanding on the key concepts, definitions and terminology concerning management regimes consistent with forest conservation inside and outside protected areas. In establishing and managing protected forest areas and identifying them with appropriate categories, consideration should be given to their value as representative of unique forest types, potential to generate information on ecological processes, conservation of biodiversity and environmental services, and address impact on the indigenous and local communities, and others depending on them for their sustenance.

6. The forest sector is affected by policies that concern both public and private sector activities as well as by the activities in other sectors. Many non-forest sector policies, such as those related to regional development, resettlement, trade, structural adjustment and agriculture, may have intended or unintended profound perverse impacts on forest conservation goals. The success of efforts to achieve forest conservation will be enhanced with effective cross-sectoral linkages and coordination.

7. A greater awareness of the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits, especially biological resources, of forest conservation and protected forest areas can help to generate public support and resources for forest conservation. Many civil society actors have an interest in forest conservation. The convergence of interests of indigenous and local communities and of protected forest areas need to be further explored and identified to allow the effective participation of all interested parties. A variety of partnerships and international cooperation schemes, operating at different geographic scales at national and international levels and with different objectives, may be useful to support forest conservation and protected areas.

Proposals for action

8. IFF recalled IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 17 (f), 17 (l), 58 (b) (v), 67 (f) and 77 (f)).

9. IFF invited countries to implement, with the assistance of international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions, the proposals for action of this new programme element through partnership mechanisms involving, where appropriate, the participation of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and indigenous and local communities.

10. IFF encouraged countries to:

(a) Commit themselves to the protection, conservation and representativeness of all types of forests, consistent with national forest policies and programmes that recognize the linkage between forest conservation and sustainable development. This commitment may be achieved through a range of conservation mechanisms, reflecting varying national circumstances, applied within and outside of protected forest areas, and the complementary roles of protected forest areas and other sustainable forest management activities, for example, the production of wood and non-wood products and services, where forest conservation is promoted by other means;

(b) Develop and implement appropriate strategies for the protection of the full range of forest values, including cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic aspects; recognition of the multiple functions and sustainable use of all types of forests, with particular regard to biological diversity; community and other interested parties' participation; integration of indigenous and local communities livelihood needs; and planning and management on an ecosystem basis, in which respect special emphasis should be put on the continued integrity of genetic diversity;

(c) Develop and implement forest management mechanisms, as appropriate, which provide for partnerships and the participation of forest owners, indigenous and local communities in support of forest conservation initiatives for sustainable forest management within the legal framework of each country;

(d) Develop financial support mechanisms to engage all interested parties, in particular forest owners and the private sector, in the planning and management of protected forest areas; and recognize forest protected areas under the stewardship of private forest owners or indigenous and local communities;

(e) Develop and apply consistently, as needed, criteria based on the adequacy, consistency and effectiveness of protected areas following an ecosystem approach, and incorporating reserve design principles that identify need for new protected areas critical to the protection and maintenance of environmental services. In this regard, consideration should be given to linking protected areas, where possible, with corridors and buffer zones and other appropriate means in order to form networks;

(f) Develop and implement a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation including economic incentives, voluntary guidelines, forest regulations, private contracts, taxes and charges, reinvestment of returns from protected areas, forest-related industries, and environmental services in forest conservation; tax deductions for private forest conservation; direct charges for protected area use;[and possible returns from carbon sequestration.]

(g) Contribute to a global and regional assessment of the current status of protected forest areas, including total number, extent of each area, objectives of establishment, effectiveness of management, IUCN system equivalent category, and basic biological and social information available. This can help towards the establishment of biogeographically balanced networks of forest protected areas.

11. IFF encouraged countries that share ecologically important or unique transboundary forests to establish joint protected forest areas, including ecological corridors of regional and/or global significance, and establish agreed guidelines concerning their collaborative management.

12. IFF encouraged the donor community, especially development agencies, donors and financial institutions, to provide adequate resources to support the achievement of objectives of forest conservation in developing countries through, *inter alia*, institutional strengthening and capacity-building; research and education and public awareness; [access to and transfer of technology]; and technical and scientific cooperation.

12 *bis* IFF urged countries, international financial institutions and other donors to agree on financial support to activities related to the implementation and management of protected areas and their surrounding landscapes in developing countries.

13. IFF encouraged countries, relevant international organizations and institutions to cooperate to develop methodologies for assessing the conditions of and management effectiveness in existing protected forest areas and their surrounding landscapes, as well as forest protected areas networks, taking into account the various efforts under way in several countries to further build capacity to collect, organize, utilize and share information and experience, including indigenous and local knowledge, in order to create and manage protected forest areas.

14. IFF invited countries, relevant international organizations and institutions to work collectively to further develop guidelines for consistency in the interpretation and use of existing IUCN categories of protected areas for application in a national context, as well as to develop a global approach for assessing the effectiveness of protected forest areas management in relation to environmental, social, cultural and other relevant objectives.

15. IFF urged countries, international financial institutions and other donors to improve coordination, at both the national and international levels, of policies and programmes that affect forest conservation, and address cross-sectoral policies, structural adjustment packages and perverse incentives.

4. Forest research (programme element II.d (iv))

Conclusions

1. IFF noted the outcome of the international consultation on research and information systems for forests sponsored by Austria and Indonesia, stressed the importance of strengthening research to inform policy, solve practical national and forest-related environmental and social problems, and meet national priorities. It recognized the value of research and information systems in enabling those responsible for forest management and civil society to achieve improved forest outcomes. However, priority setting should be improved. The value of inter-country research collaboration at the eco-regional level was emphasized. Forest-related research agendas should not be limited to forest sector issues but should include other policy issues as

well. Inputs from the public and private sectors should be encouraged.

2. There are some inadequacies in existing systems for mobilizing resources, setting priorities and achieving coherence for forest research. Improved mechanisms are needed for research to play its full role in support of sustainable forest management and the maintenance of forests and wooded lands to meet all current and future human needs. Research agenda should be more relevant to policy makers and potential beneficiaries of research. The importance of engaging major groups in identifying priorities and using results was also stressed. It was emphasized that member organizations of ITFF working with IUFRO should continue to explore ways of generating resources, improving priority setting and increasing the coherence of national, regional and international research efforts.

3. IFF, taking note of proposals for the development of a global forest information service, suggested that use should be made of existing institutions, mechanisms and networks, to enhance access to forest-related information. The need to provide access for all interested parties was noted. It was recognized that individual countries and regional and subregional organizations would contribute to such an effort, both through relevant international institutions and through the national research information systems. The role of networks in providing valuable opportunities for collaboration by research institutions, within and between countries, as well as the potential for such networks to facilitate capacity development in developing countries, was also noted. The strengthening of linkage with other scientific-oriented international bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and forge synergies of global efforts was emphasized.

4. IFF noted that assistance allocated to building national research capacity is an effective form of development assistance. In this regard, greater priority should be given by all countries to financial and technical assistance programmes and technological cooperation to strengthen the capacity of developing countries. IFF strongly encouraged countries to continue giving higher priority to the forest sector, including through allocation of resources to national research capacity-building.

Proposals for action

5. IFF recalled IPF proposals for action 94 (a), 94 (c) and 94 (d), and underlined that forest research should have a country-driven approach.

6. IFF called upon countries to:

(a) Improve national efforts to strengthen forest research by formulating policies, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, within the context of national forest programmes in order to identify research needs and priorities as well as to coordinate the implementation of research programmes relevant to sustainable forest management;

(b) Consider examination of new ways of mobilizing funding for forest research, including changes to the charters of research institutions that would allow them to address diverse sources of funding, as well as changes to research agendas;

(c) Improve linkage between forest science and forest policy processes at the national and subnational levels by creating opportunities for policy makers, scientists, donors, and other interested parties to provide guidance to research and forest policy discussions;

(d) Ensure that forest research in countries be undertaken with prior consent of the country/countries concerned.

7. IFF urged international organizations, donor countries and financial institutions to:

(a) Contribute to fund forest research in developing countries;

(b) Examine new ways for mobilizing funding for forest research and intensify efforts, including development assistance, to strengthen research networks and build capacity at the national, regional and global levels, to facilitate all countries to meet the broad economic, social, cultural and environmental demands upon forests;

(c) Enhance access to forest-related information by all interested parties, making best use of existing institutions, mechanisms and networks, including national, regional and international research information systems;

(d) Foster joint ventures in forest research involving both the public (research institutions) and private sector.

8. IFF requested the ITFF member organizations to:

(a) Explore ways and means of improving priority setting and support for national, regional and international forest-related research efforts;

(b) Explore options for providing guidance to forest science initiatives, strengthening linkages between science and policy, mobilizing resources, including financial resources, and increasing international efforts in support of forest research and research capacity-building;

(c) Work with IUFRO in exploring possibilities for a global forest information service.

5. Valuation of forest goods and services (programme element II.d (v))

Conclusions

1. In all countries, forests provide a wide variety of goods and services, including the basis for subsistence livelihood, in particular in many developing countries. Forest valuation should reflect the social, cultural, economic and ecological context and consider values that are important to local and/or indigenous communities, private forest owners, gender aspects, and distributional impacts. In addition, many benefits, such as watershed and soil protection, the mitigation of natural disasters and the enhancement of recreation and tourism are important to society as a whole. At the global level, benefits include carbon sequestration, the conservation of biological diversity and combating desertification.

2. The Forum noted that the development of forest valuation tools and methods is an ongoing process. It reiterated the proposals for action on the valuation of forest goods and services of IPF, and noted their continuing relevance and validity.

3. The Forum stressed that the deficiencies in valuation in economic terms of, for example, social and ecological values, does not imply that these values are considered less relevant. More quantitative data, including resource prices and data for non-economic values of forests, will make forest valuation more effective. There is also a need for simplified, rapid and cost-effective valuation methodologies to suit specific circumstances of countries.

4. The Forum noted that forest valuation can be one of the necessary tools for promoting sustainable forest management, and valuation estimates provide important inputs to forest policy development and to the formulation and implementation of national forest programmes. The Forum noted, however, that sound forest policy decisions can often be made without explicit forest valuation. Forest valuation by itself does not provide a guarantee for appropriate policy decisions.

5. The scope of valuation of forest goods and services needs to extend beyond the limits of the forest sector and include, for example, consideration of alternative land-use options of significant social or economic value, forest products pricing, and ecological impact of substitute materials. There is a need to develop an approach to identify both costs and benefits of sustainable forest management, as well as ways to encourage countries to internalize externalities.

6. Enhanced international cooperation is required, with special attention to capacity-building for the development and application of forest valuation in order to enable informed policies and decision-making, as well as enhanced programme formulation in developing countries.

7. There is a need for enhanced cooperation and coordination on forest valuation matters with other forums dealing with such issues as climate change, international trade, desertification and biological diversity.

Proposals for action

8. The Forum recalled the IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, paras. 104 (a), (b), (c) and 134 (a) and (b)).

9. The Forum:

(a) Urged Governments to improve collection of quantitative data to enumerate and develop physical accounts of the full range of forest goods and services, including inventories of timber and other goods and services, and impacts of changes in forest use on the environment. This should also be done for substitute non-wood materials;

(b) Encouraged further development, by countries and international organizations, of rapid and low-cost valuation methods, including a focus on the development of approaches which incorporate a wide range of values, reflect the overall value of forest ecosystems, as appropriate, and identify the costs and benefits of sustainable forest management, as well as ways to internalize externalities;

(c) Requested relevant international organizations to develop and test rapid valuation methods that are policy relevant and efficient, that reflect regional and national characteristics and requirements, and to develop approaches for the identification of the costs and benefits [, including incremental costs and benefits,] of sustainable forest management which can be employed for a cost-efficient use of investment funds for forests;

(d) Requested countries and international organizations to assist developing countries in building and promoting capacity for the development and application of forest valuation methods.

6. Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure (programme element II.d (vi))

Conclusions

1. The Forum noted that economic instruments and tax policies are powerful tools in forest policy when applied

within an effective forest policy and institutional framework. However, they may be ineffective or counterproductive in a situation of policy, institutional or regulatory failures.

2. Economic instruments in the forest sector should include consideration of opportunity costs of alternative land uses and opportunities in other sectors, and both public and private ownership of forests.

3. The ability to offer a wide variety of forest goods and services for sale in local, national and international markets can be an effective incentive for sustainable forest management. Additional information is needed on approaches to creating markets for forest products, especially non-wood forest products and services, and on the role of the public and private sector in helping assure that new or expanded markets are consistent with all dimensions of sustainable forest management.

4. The Forum recognized the need for secure land tenure and user rights in the effective use of economic instruments as tools to support sustainable forest management and for investments of the private sector in the establishment and management of forest resources. However, to institutionalize this is a long-term process, and interim measures are required in most cases in view of the urgent need to regulate resource utilization and address the issues related to local and/or indigenous communities, as well as gender aspects.

5. The Forum recognized that economic instruments applied in the forest sector, including taxes and revenue collection, can be a source of financial support for improved management; these instruments can also support and promote sustainable forest management by providing incentives and disincentives.

6. The Forum recognized that the macroeconomic policies of countries may have extensive and enduring effects on the forest sector as well as on other sectors; consideration of these effects, as a component of programmes of macroeconomic structural adjustment, can provide the basis for informed decision-making, which can lead to sustainable economic growth and sustainable forest management.

7. It has been the experience of many countries that developments in other sectors that are, in some cases, the consequence of policies, can lead to unintended changes in the forest sector. Weak or inconsistent policies in other sectors, including but not limited to the agricultural sector, can undermine the use of any forest policy tools, including economic instruments.

Proposals for action

8. The Forum:

(a) Encouraged countries, with the assistance of relevant international organizations, to assess the potential scope and effective combination of economic instruments and tax policies as tools for promoting sustainable forest management, as appropriate, as part of their national forest programmes. This assessment should include but not be limited to collection of forest revenue from timber extraction;

(b) Encouraged countries to recognize and use, where applicable, an appropriate combination of regulations and economic instruments for achieving the objectives of forest policies, including the use of charges and forest revenue collection that also offer incentives for sustainable forest management practices;

(c) Encouraged countries to recognize the actual and potential impacts of economic instruments and tax policies as a means of providing incentives to engage in activities that avoid deforestation and forest degradation and that support sustainable forest management practices; and to examine, in collaboration with international organizations, when requested, the role of forest policy failures and policies in other sectors as a contributing factor in deforestation, forest degradation or unsustainable forest management; and to collaborate with international organizations in developing mitigating policies;

(d) Encouraged countries, within their respective legal framework, to support land tenure policies that recognize and respect legitimate access and use, and property rights in order to support sustainable forest management and investment, recognizing that institutionalizing tenure is a long-term and complex process which requires interim measures to address urgent needs, in particular of local and/or indigenous communities;

(e) Requested relevant international organizations to undertake an up-to-date review of contemporary forest revenue collection systems for the use of forest products and services. The Forum encouraged countries to share their experiences in this area and to support this effort;

(f) Invited relevant international organizations to provide, on request, general and specific advice to countries on the design and administration of economic instruments and tax policies to promote sustainable forest management, and encouraged countries to offer examples of successes in using economic instruments to advance the practice of sustainable forest management;

(g) Encouraged countries to develop macroeconomic policies and policies in other sectors that support and contribute to sustainable forest management; and requested international financial and lending institutions to consider mitigating the impacts of macroeconomic structural adjustment programmes on forests consistent with sustainable forest management.

7. Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services (programme element II.d (vii))

Conclusions

1. IFF recognized that the demand for and supply of wood and non-wood products and services of forests will continue to form the basis for the contribution of forests to economic and social development, particularly for poverty eradication. The need for commodities, including but not limited to wood, will provide one of the powerful motivations for conservation and sustainable management of forests. This future outlook does not eliminate, however, the need for improved information, forest policy implementation and forest management. Reliable forest inventory data are essential in the analysis of trends in demand for and supply of wood and non-wood products.

2. Most recent outlook studies have reached the general conclusion that at the global level, wood fibre supply will be broadly matched with demand without likely price increases, but at the national level some countries may experience shortages and possibly price increases. Furthermore, alternative sources of fibre, such as from recycled paper and non-wood fibre, now account for an increasing share of industrial fibre consumption. A number of factors, including effects of deforestation, forest degradation, the designation of additional forests as protected forest areas, markets and technologies, are leading to a gradual shift in some regions in the focus of wood harvesting to more intensively managed forests, including natural forests, planted forests, as well as trees outside forests. Due consideration of environmental, economic and social principles of sustainable forest management should be taken at appropriate levels in the planning and management of forests.

3. Global consumption of wood for fuel is larger than industrial roundwood consumption in terms of volume. Much work is required to accurately assess the impacts of fuelwood collection on forest resources, and the role of trees outside forests. For most of the world's population, it is as a source of fuel that forests play their most important role in social and economic development.

4. Policies that set or affect the prices of wood and non-wood products and services are among the most important factors influencing demand and supply. Policies that distort the efficient operation of markets may contribute to the unsustainable management of forests. Furthermore, it is not only prices of forest products but also of their substitutes that need to be considered when assessing market policies and their environmental consequences.

5. Private and community ownership of forests and the private sector in general play an increasingly important role in sustaining production of industrial wood products. Private forests presently account for about half of world wood production and this share is expected to increase in the future. The increasing role of private owners, local and/or indigenous communities and market processes will present new challenges for choosing and implementing forest policies to achieve both wood and non-wood objectives for forests.

Proposals for action

6. The Forum encourages countries and international organizations to improve data collection and information dissemination through:

(i) Increasing the extent, quality and comparability of inventory data on forest resources, including both wood and non-wood forest products and services;

(ii) Giving adequate attention to collection and reporting on the use of a broad range of non-wood products, including quantities gathered and consumed, ownership rights and their importance to rural and indigenous communities;

(iii) The systematic collection and reporting of information on the source and use of wood fuels; and

(iv) The provision of timely, useful and comparable data on prices of wood and non-wood products as well as their substitutes.

7. The Forum further encourages countries, including through international cooperation, to:

(a) Promote policies, as needed, to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management, including, where appropriate, planted forests and trees outside forests, and work towards an internationally agreed definition of planted forests;

(b) Recognize the role of the private sector, where appropriate, in producing forest products and services. This role may need to be supported within a framework of

policies, incentives and regulations, such as secure land tenure and appropriate tax policies to help ensure the improved management of forests and sustained production of a wide range of goods and services;

(c) Incorporate the supply of fuelwood and wood energy as well as efficient wood energy technologies as a crucial part of policy and planning exercises within the forestry, agriculture and energy sectors, and develop pilot studies to assess more accurately the impacts of fuelwood collection on trees and forests;

(d) Develop and implement policies designed to promote sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest goods and services that reflect a wide range of values, and to ensure that the benefits of commercialization of wood and non-wood forest goods and services contribute to improved management of forests and are equitably distributed to the people who protect and provide them;

(e) Review policies that have a direct effect on the price of forest products and of their substitutes, initiate studies on market behaviour, when appropriate, and recognize that appropriate prices can encourage and support sustainable forest management while discouraging overuse, waste, excess and inefficient manufacturing;

(f) Undertake studies on the cost and benefits of using renewable wood and non-wood forest products, as opposed to non-renewable substitutes.

8. Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas (programme element II.d (viii))

Conclusions

1. The Forum recognized that forests in environmentally critical areas are especially susceptible to degradation and destruction resulting from human activities and from natural disturbances. The Forum expanded the scope of attention to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forest cover in environmentally critical areas, sub-humid, arid and semi-arid areas in tropical and temperate regions, mountain ecosystems, wetlands, coastal systems in particular mangroves and small islands, as well as trees outside forests. It reiterated the proposals for action of IPF on fragile ecosystems affected by desertification and drought and noted their continuing relevance and validity. IFF acknowledged the decisions taken by the Convention to Combat Desertification with regard to the implementation of national action programmes as a major tool to combat desertification and drought.

2. The Forum noted that methods and technologies for the rehabilitation and management of forests in environmentally critical areas are well known, and stressed the importance of more effective policies, coordination and partnerships in addressing the ecological, social, cultural and economic problems associated with these systems. Partnerships and coordination should include affected countries, international organizations, development cooperation agencies and relevant major groups.

3. Planted forests, in particular of native species, where appropriate, have an important role to play in the rehabilitation of degraded land and in assisting to provide cover in environmentally critical areas.

4. The Forum reaffirmed the basic principles contained in chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and in the IPF proposals for action, and stressed the importance of action-oriented proposals, including through the provision of financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as set out in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21, and in this regard stressed the needs of least developed countries and of developing countries with low forest cover.

5. Mountain ecosystems deserve special attention because of the marginalization of mountain populations living in isolated and often cold areas, the importance of mountain forests for soil and watershed protection, the conservation of biological diversity, and the conflict between economic use and environmental protection. Mountain cloud forests are of particular concern in this regard.

Proposals for action

6. The Forum recalled the IPF proposals for action relevant to this programme element (in particular, E/CN.17/1997/12, para. 46 (a)-(f).

7. The Forum:

(a) Encouraged countries and relevant international organizations and major groups to cooperate and coordinate activities concerning forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, and to contribute to more systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information, including social and economic data;

(b) Urged countries to place rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas as a higher priority on national development agendas within the context of national forest programmes, as appropriate;

(c) Encouraged countries, in particular countries with low forest cover, to use planted forests and other means, including trees outside forests, in agroforestry, silvipastoral

and analog forestry systems (forest management systems that seek to mimic natural forests in rehabilitation of degraded land), giving special consideration to using native species, where appropriate, as options for rehabilitating degraded lands and, where possible, as a basis for re-establishing natural forests;

(d) Urged countries to engage in raising awareness of the ecological, social, cultural and economic roles that planted and natural forests might fulfil in the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests in environmentally critical areas;

(e) (It was suggested to move this subparagraph to programme element II.c.) Encouraged countries, with the cooperation of international organizations, to promote appropriate transfer of environmentally sound rehabilitation technologies for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in environmentally critical areas, and to develop appropriate means to promote sharing of environmentally sound technologies between and within countries, including effective links between research, extension and implementation;

(f) Further urged international organizations and donor countries to strengthen their support to and collaboration with international programmes, including through the provision of financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as set out in chapters 33 and 34 of Agenda 21 and through conventions directed to fragile ecosystems, in particular concerning the role of forests, other wooded lands and trees in the Convention to Combat Desertification and Agenda 21, chapters 12 and 13, which address the concerns of the poorer communities.

E. Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (programme element II.e)

This programme element was not discussed by IFF at its third session; for IFF conclusions on programme element II.e, see E/CN.17/1998/14, sect.II.F.

V. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element III)

Compilation text presented by the Co-Chairmen

1. IFF recognized that the [global] attention to forests [on the global policy and political agenda] has been precipitated [by concerns] / [among others by challenges] such as deforestation, forest degradation, competition with alternative land use [, lack of valuation of forest wood and non-wood products] [, and the ability of forests] / [The Forum also noted that the potential of forests] to sustainably meet economic, social [, cultural] and environmental demands for its products and services [has not been fully utilized]. [Meeting these demands requires transfer of technologies, financial resources and access to markets.] The Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, the IPF proposals for action and the IFF process [as well as many other initiatives,] have all recognized the need to address forest-related issues in an integrated manner [at all levels], and have emphasized that there are many complex and interrelated [causes for forest concerns] / [issues] that either directly or indirectly affect forests [and sustainable forest management].

2. [Consensus] / [Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), progress] has already been [reached] / [made] on several forest-related issues through a variety of existing international, regional and national forest-related instruments, mechanisms and programmes [organizations, initiatives and processes]. [[However, one of the major constraints identified is that [full implementation and compliance has not been reached as yet and therefore, concrete results have only been partially achieved.] / [the instruments, mechanisms and programmes of the existing international forest regime are rather isolated from each other in their deliberations and fragmented in their implementation.]] / [However, there is a need for partnership and political will to fully implement the existing programmes, mechanisms and instruments which up to now have produced only partial results.] [[Moreover,[inability of these] / [limitations of the existing] mechanisms to cohesively and comprehensively address the fundamental aspects of maintaining health and productive capacity of forest ecosystems as a whole has been identified.] / [Addressing different aspects of forestry, such as carbon

sequestration, biodiversity and safeguarding fragile ecosystems, these instruments, mechanisms and programmes have various limitations to cohesively and comprehensively address the fundamental aspects of the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest ecosystems as a whole.]] IFF noted that there is no global instrument that deals in a comprehensive and holistic way with all types of forests.] [There is general consensus that] a holistic, integrated and comprehensive [, international agenda for action on] / [dialogue on] / [approach to] / [discussion on] forests [is needed to promote] / [could be useful in promoting] / [is needed for action to promote] / [needs to continue in order to promote] the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests [and other wooded lands, in order to equitably meet the diverse needs of current and future generations.]

3. [An international [[agenda] / [dialogue] for action]] / [dialogue] / [This approach] on forests [derived from the UNCED decisions] [needs] / [should] [to take into account the [consensus] / [progress] already reached] / [to be based on consensus], [as well as [the need for progress in the implementation of the IPF proposals for action] considering forest-related aspects embodied in other instruments [mechanisms and programmes] that address issues of global significance relevant to forests. Furthermore, it has to address] / [on all aspects of forests, and] the interests and needs of all countries [[consider] / [taking into account in particular] the special situation and needs of developing countries [to implement sustainable forest management], and be inclusive of the areas of priority concerns to both countries with rich and countries with low forest cover].

(It was suggested that paragraph 4 would be moved to after paragraph 5)

[4. Collectively, the following [elements] / [issues], not listed in any order of priority, [[constitute the international agenda for action on forests and] reflect both the overarching objectives required to assess, maintain, protect and restore [forest cover] / [forests] , as well as national and international actions necessary to meet these objectives] / [could frame future international forest discussions]:]

or

[Alt. 4. International cooperation to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests could have the broad objectives of protecting and enhancing: forest biodiversity; forest ecosystem health; soil and water resources; global carbon cycle; forest productivity; and social and economic benefits [; supply and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services; access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; financial resources; international trade in support of sustainable forest management] through effective national policy frameworks. Under these objectives, actions at the international, regional and national levels could include, not listed in any order of priority:]

[(a) Maintaining forest health and productivity;]

[Alt. (a) Maintaining forest health;

(b) Maintaining forest productivity;]

(c) Forest conservation [and protection], unique types of forests and [protected areas] / [fragile ecosystems];

(d) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;

(e) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded [forest] lands, and the [role] / [promotion] of [natural regeneration and] planted forests;

(f) [Addressing the special needs of] [Low forest cover countries] / [Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover] ; (Subparagraph (f) was thought to be a duplication with (l))

[(g) Vital role of all types of forests and transboundary dimensions;]

(h) [Formulation and implementation of sound] National forest programmes;

(i) Monitoring, assessment and reporting; [criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;] and concepts, terminology and definitions;

(j) [Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;]

(k) [Economic and social [and cultural] aspects of forests] / [Realistic valuation of economic and social benefits of forests, including non-wood forest products] ;

(l) [International cooperation in capacity-building and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;] /

[Alt. (l) International cooperation in capacity-building;

(m) Access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;]

(n) Financial resources;

(o) International trade and sustainable forest management;

(p) [Forest-related scientific research;] / [Strengthening research in direct support of national forest programmes]

(q) Traditional forest-related knowledge;

(Subparagraphs o and p were suggested for inclusion in paragraph 5 as functions)

[(r) Forest-related work of institutions and instruments;

(s) International policy development and priority-setting for action;]

[(t) Maintaining forest security;]

[(u) Promoting public participation;]

[(v) Principles]].

or

[Alt. a-v.

(a) Conservation of biodiversity. Includes issues of:

(i) Protected forest areas, cross border parks;

(ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge;

(iii) Fragile ecosystems;

(b) Maintaining social, cultural and economic benefits. Includes issues of:

(i) Production, supply and demand for timber, fuelwood and non-wood products;

(ii) Investment in the forest sector;

(iii) Cultural, social and spiritual values;

(iv) Community, livelihood and employment needs;

(c) Policy framework. Includes issues of:

(i) Economic instruments, land tenure, valuation;

(ii) National forest programmes;

(iii) Financial resources and technology transfer;

(iv) Scientific research;

(v) Trade in forest products;

(vi) Inventory and assessment;

(vii) Participatory processes;

(d) Maintaining forest health and productivity. Includes issues of:

(i) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests;

(ii) Plantations;

(iii) Fire management;

(iv) Transboundary air pollutants;

(v) Watershed protection;

(e) Global carbon cycles

(i) Forests as sinks;

(ii) Forests as sources;

(iii) Joint implementation/CDM partnerships].

[(Suggested grouping for a-v)

(a) National forest programmes;

(b) International cooperation and coordination;

(c) Financial resources;

(d) Consumption patterns].

[(Suggested grouping for a-v)

(a) Management issues;

(b) Financial and economic issues;

(c) Social issues;

(d) Research and development issues].

[(Suggested grouping for a-v)

(a) Objectives;

(b) Actions].

(Paragraph 5 is suggested to come before paragraph 4)

5. IFF recognized the need for a consensus [oriented approach on international arrangements and mechanisms] to [[continue] / [encourage] the international policy dialogue] / [institutionalize the global policy dialogue] to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. [Such [arrangements and mechanisms] / [dialogue] [could] / [should be action oriented and] have the following functions [or objectives]:] / [IFF noted that the term elements as laid down in the IFF programme of work contains issues of global concern as well as functions of the future global forest policy dialogue. IFF acknowledged the need to find common understanding on basic functions of this dialogue, including:]

[(a) Ensure the strongest possible level of commitment to the implementation of sustainable forest management, including IPF and IFF proposals for action;]

[(b) Elaboration of objectives in line with UNCED decisions and IPF proposals for action for the provision of the global forest policy framework on the economic, social, cultural and environmental functions of forests and their sustainable development;]

[(c) Securing the political commitment to sustainable forest management taking into account all the interests in forests in a comprehensive manner;]

[(d) [Develop, [guide,] promote and [formulate] policy action] / [Promote policy formulation] on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, at the [national, regional and] global levels, as appropriate;]

[Alt. (d) Promote policy formulation and action on issues, including emerging issues, related to forests;]

[(e) [Develop and set priorities for] / [Identify areas for] / [Promote] action [towards the implementation of sustainable forest management], and address emerging issues [, such as valuation, access to markets and traditional forest-related knowledge, taking into account the work done in forums with specific mandates on these issues] [and facilitate the implementation of sustainable forest management];]

(f) [[Set priorities and coordinate [and contribute to synergies among]] / [Identify areas where] / [Promote and coordinate] / [Keep apprised of and inform the] forest-related work [of] / [with relevant] international organizations [and instruments][could be coordinated];]

[Alt. (f) Secure coordination of forest-related actions in other international instruments, mechanisms and programmes based on agreed global definitions as well as principles of sustainable forest management;]

[(g) [[Support] / [Foster] and] identify [needs for] / [ways and means to support] international [and regional] cooperation [towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including support for national forest programmes [through actions in the fields of transfer of environmentally sound technologies and provision of new and additional financial resources]] / [, collaboration and partnership in capacity building];]

[Alt. (g) Enhance international and regional cooperation and improve effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance to support the efforts and respond to the needs of developing countries towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests [, including the formulation of national forest programmes];]

[Alt. (g) Improve support to forest policy reform processes and to the implementation of sustainable and comprehensive forest development programmes of developing countries through better international development cooperation, including support to national forest programmes;]

(h) [Review, assess and report] / [Assess, review, monitor and report] / [Review and assess] on progress towards sustainable forest management [and on the state of the world's forests [and monitor progress in implementing the IPF and IFF proposals for action] [using criteria and indicators]] / [on the state of all types of forests, including the implementation of measures of the international forest regime] ;

[(i) *bis* Provide effective governance of a common and comprehensive forest agenda for action by the forest community;]

[(j) Provide a forum for interested parties to exchange experiences, discuss concerns, and [propose solutions for achieving sustainable forest management] / [programming further global and regional actions related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in a holistic manner; in this context, facilitating, *inter alia*, the promotion of trade in sustainably produced forest goods and services, technology transfer, research and financing];]

[Alt. (j) Exchange information and experiences on problems encountered and successes achieved;]

[(k) Facilitate efficient coordination and comparability of concepts, terminology and definitions.]

[Alt. (k) Promote a better common understanding of sustainable forest management, including key concepts and terms.]

[Alt. (k) Fostering common understanding of sustainable forest management in a holistic manner, including the development of criteria and indicators which reflect national circumstances and priorities.]

Guidance to the IFF secretariat in preparation for the fourth session of IFF

1. To support IFF deliberations aimed at identifying the possible elements of and working towards a consensus on international arrangements and mechanisms, such as a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the secretariat, taking into account the Co-Chair's compilation text on category III, should submit a report to IFF at its fourth session on programme element III, containing:

(a) An elaboration of possible functions of international arrangements and mechanisms on forests beyond the year 2000;

(b) An elaboration of possible elements which could be used as a basis for future work of international arrangements and mechanisms, taking into account the proposals for action of IPF and discussions at IFF, including country-led initiatives;

(c) An analysis of various options for international arrangements and mechanisms to further develop the international forest policy dialogue for action in order to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, focusing on the ability of these options to effectively fulfil the aforementioned functions and to address elements, and to estimate the costs of such options. This analysis should take into account the work of existing organizations and instruments and country-led initiatives, and should include at least the following options or a combination of them:

(i) A mechanism for improved coordination of existing arrangements;

(ii) Ongoing ad hoc intergovernmental dialogue;

(iii) A new permanent forum for intergovernmental dialogue;

(iv) Improvement of non-legally binding instruments;

(v) A lead body role for an existing organization;

(vi) Use of existing legally binding instruments;

(vii) Regional mechanisms;

(viii) A framework convention allowing for regional mechanisms;

(ix) A new global legal instrument.

2. IFF invited countries to submit to the secretariat ideas on possible functions, elements and options by 15 September 1999.

3. The report should also include a matrix of elements and existing arrangements and mechanisms as an annex.

VI. Other matters

1. At its 7th meeting, on 14 May 1999, the Forum considered item 5 of its agenda, "Other matters", and had before it a draft text relating to the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

2. Following statements by the representatives of Guyana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Brazil, the Forum decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the fourth session be held from 31 January to 11 February 2000, in New York (see sect. I, draft decision).

VII. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum

1. At its 7th meeting, on 14 May 1999, the Forum had before it the provisional agenda for its fourth session, which read as follows:

Provisional agenda for the fourth session

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element I):
   (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation (programme element I.a);
   (b) Monitoring progress in implementation (programme element I.b).
4. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process (programme element II):
   (a) Need for financial resources (programme element II.a);
   (b) Trade and environment (programme element II.b);
   (c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (programme element II.c);
   (d) Issues that need further clarification (programme element II.d):
      (i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (programme element II.d (i));
      (ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge (programme element II.d (ii));
      (iii) Forest conservation and protected areas (programme element II.d (iii));

(iv) Forest research (programme element II.d (iv));

(v) Valuation of forest goods and services (programme element II.d (v));

(vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure (programme element II.d (vi));

(vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products (programme element II.d (vii);

(viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas (programme element II.d (viii);

(e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (programme element II.e).

5. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (programme element III).

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

2. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Guyana (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Forum adopted the provisional agenda.

VIII. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session

1. At its 7th meeting, on 14 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report on its third session (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/L.1), as well as a number of draft texts.

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.

3. Also at the same meeting, the Forum took note of the draft texts and adopted its report.

IX. Organizational and other matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Intergovernmental Forum on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its third session from 3 to 14 May 1999, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1998/216 of 23 July 1998. The Forum held 7 meetings (1st to 7th).

2. The session was opened by one of the Co-Chairmen, Ilkka Ristimaki (Finland).

3. The Forum heard an address via video teleconference from New York by Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

4. An introductory statement was made by the Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 6 May 1999, the Forum agreed to invite the Southern African Development Community to participate in the work of its third session as an intergovernmental organization with the status of observer.

B. Election of officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 3 May, the Forum agreed that Amelia Torres (Peru) would serve as Vice-Chairman at the third session, replacing Bibiana Vargas Morales (Colombia).

7. The Bureau of the Forum comprised the following officers:

Co-Chairmen:
Bagher Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Ilkka Ristimaki (Finland)

Vice-Chairmen:
Yevgeny Kuzmichev (Russian Federation)
Amelia Torres (Peru)

8. At the same meeting, the Forum agreed that in addition to serving as Vice-Chairman, Ms. Torres would also serve as Rapporteur.

C. Agenda and organization of work

9. Also at the same meeting, following a correction by the Secretary of the Forum, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda contained in document

E/CN.17/IFF/1999/1, and approved its organization of work, as corrected and amended. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests:
   (a) Promoting and facilitating implementation;
   (b) Monitoring progress in implementation.
3. Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process:
   (a) Need for financial resources;
   (b) Trade and environment;
   (c) Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management;
   (d) Issues that need further clarification:
      (i) Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;
      (ii) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
      (iii) Forest conservation and protected areas,
      (iv) Forest research;
      (v) Valuation of forest goods and services;
      (vi) Economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure;
      (vii) Future supply of and demand for wood and non wood forest products;
      (viii) Assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas;
   (e) Forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments.
4. International arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
5. Other matters.
6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

10. At the same meeting, the Forum agreed to establish two in-session working groups, each to be chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen.

D. Attendance

11. The session was attended by representatives of 37 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and secretariats of treaty bodies, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in the annex.

E. Documentation

12. In addition to the above-mentioned provisional agenda (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/1), the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on promoting and facilitating implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring progress in implementation (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on trade and environment (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/5);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: traditional forest-related knowledge" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/8);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation of forest cover in environmentally critical areas" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/9);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: forest conservation and protected areas" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/10);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: forest research" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/11);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: valuation of forest goods and services" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/12);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: economic instruments, tax policies and land tenure" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/13);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Issues that need further clarification: future supply of and demand for wood and non-wood forest products" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/14);

(n) Note by the Secretariat on forest-related work of international and regional organizations and under existing instruments (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/15);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on international arrangements and mechanisms to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/16);

(p) Letter dated 2 February 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the report on the International Consultation on Research and Information Systems in Forestry, which was held at Gmunden, Austria, from 7 to 10 September 1998 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/17);

(q) Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final report of the Global Workshop on Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which was held in Costa Rica from 18 to 22 January 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/18);

(r) Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Chairman of the International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/19);

(s) Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting an executive summary of the report entitled "International forest conservation: protected areas and beyond" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/20);

(t) Letter dated 21 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile, Denmark, India, New Zealand and Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the International Experts Meeting on the role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management, which was held at Santiago from 6 to 10 April 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/21);

(u) Letter dated 23 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Brazil-US International Experts Meeting on Protected Forests Areas, which was held at San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 15 to 19 March 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/22);

(v) Letter dated 26 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the San José meeting of experts of the Costa Rica Canada Initiative on forests in support of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, which was held at San José, Costa Rica, from 22 to 26 February 1999 (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/23);

(w) Letter dated 29 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting an executive summary of the report entitled "A Study on the global outlook for plantations" (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/24).

Annex

Attendance

Members

Algeria:	Sid-Ali Ramdane
Angola:	
Belgium:	Jean-Marie Noirfalisse, Marc Gedopt, Jacques Thinsy, Michel Peetermans, Simon Legrand
Brazil:	Everton Vicira Vargas, Antonio Fernando Cruz de Mello, Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, Antonio Carlos do Prado, Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Luis Carlos de Miranda Joels, Nilton Zerbini, Raimar da Silva Aguiar, Moyses Benarros Israel
Bulgaria:	
Cameroon:	Mbassi Menye, Kene Otodo
Canada:	Jacques Carette, Ken Macartney, Olivier Jalbert, Denyse Rousseau, Mike Fullerton, Rosalie McConnell, Ralph Roberts, Denis Chouinard, Martin Loken, David Morel, Germain Paré, Cliff Wallis, Joel Neuheimer, Tony Rotherham, Charlene Higgins
China:	Wu Bin, Su Ming, Zhou Fang, Lu Wenming
Colombia:	Fulvia Benavides, Maria Elvira Posada, Maria Andrea Alban, Javier Camargo
Cote d'Ivoire:	
Cuba:	Modesto Fernández, Elías Linares Landa, Salvador Cabeiro Quintana
Czech Republic:	Frantisek Urban
Democratic People's Republic of Korea:	Hong Song O, Ri Thae Gun
Democratic Republic of the Congo:	Atoki Ileka, Victor Bouetoukadilamio
Djibouti:	
Egypt:	Nasr Ragheb Said
Finland:	Birgitta Stenius-Mladenov, Jan Heino, Anders Portin, Markku Aho, Aira Paivoke, Ismo Kolehmainen, Juha Pyykko, Tiina Rytila, Kimmo Sinivuori, Heikki Granholm, Esa Hyvarinen, Leena Karjalainen-Balk, Heikki Korpelainen, Esko Joutsamo, Pekka Kallio-Mannila, Anna-Leena Simula
France:	Philippe Petit, Aude Frequelin, Olivier Guérot, Geneviève Verbrugge, Bernard Chevalier, Jean Graebling, Roland Burrus, Guenaelle Couderc, Philippe Merlin

Germany:	Walter Lewalter, Ulrich Hoenisch, Holger Eberle, Matthias Schwoerer-Boehning, Gabriela Bennemann, Hagen Frost, Udo Vollmer, Christa Wolf, Hermann Intemann, Rainald Roesch, Karl Keilen, Thomas Schneider, Christian Mersmann, Michael Lammertz, Birgit Hagler
Guyana:	Clayton Hall, Bal Persaud, Alison Drayton
Hungary:	Gyula Holdampf, Peter Csoka
India:	M. K. Sharma, A. N. Prasad
Indonesia:	Untung Iskandar, Benni H. Sormin, Sugeng Rahardjo, I. Ngurah Swajaja, Asianto Sinambela, Anita Lantu-Luhulima, Susanto Sutoyo, Sumpeno Putro
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Bagher Asadi, Hossein Fazlollahi, Mir-Mohamed A. Mir-Sadeghi, Javad Amin-Mansour, Mohsen Esperi, Jalaleddin Alavi, Hossein-pour
Ireland:	Bridie Cullinane
Italy:	Filippo Menzinger, Filippo Gatti
Japan:	Akira Takamatsu, Tsuguo Ban, Yoshimitsu Nishitani, Ichiro Nagame, Hiroshi Nakata, Osamu Hashiramoto, Kenji Fujita, Mayu Hagiwara, Hiroyuki Eguchi
Kazakhstan:	
Lebanon:	
Mauritania:	
Mauritius:	
Mexico:	Teresa Bandala, Claudia González, Edgar Cubero, José Elías Leal
Mozambique:	Mauricio Xerinda
Netherlands:	Menno van Genne, Ton van der Zon, Peter Schutz
New Zealand:	Don Wijewardana, John Goodman, Matthew Gubb
Nicaragua:	
Niger:	
Panama:	
Paraguay:	
Peru:	Jorge Voto-Bernales, Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros, Amelia Torres Cuadros, Antonio Morizaki Taura, Ruben Espinoza Raymondi, Gustavo Laurie Escandon
Philippines:	
Portugal:	Carlos Morais, João de Sousa Teixeira, Conceição Ferreira, Antonio Emidio Santos, Graça Rato, Manuela Domingues, Maria Isabel Matos Preto, Manuela Falçao, Antonio Botão
Republic of Korea:	Son Sung-Ewan, Joo Rin-Won, Yoo Dae-Jong, Kang Ho-Duck

Russian Federation:	Evgeny Kuzmichev, Elena Kulikova, Anatoly Pisarenko, Alexander Gudyma
Slovakia:	
Spain:	Jose Maria Solano, Salustiano Iglesias
Sri Lanka:	S. Palihakkara, B. Bulumulla, A. S. U. Mendis
Sudan:	Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:	Goce Petreski, Biljana Stefanovska-Sekovska, Vasko Grkov
Tunisia:	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Andrew Bennett, Mike Dudley, Paul Hill-Tout, Libby Jones, Richard Dewdney, John Hudson, Penny Brooke, Scott Ghagan, James Lowen, John Carpenter, Michael Massey, Annabelle Malins, Stuart Wilson
United States of America:	Barbara Tobias, Stephanie Caswell, Jan McAlpine, David Brooks, Elizabeth Estill, Rob Hendricks, David Digiovanna, Alex Moad, Gerry Rose, Franklin Moore
Venezuela:	Dulce María Parra Fuentes

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Australia, Austria, Benin, Chile, Costa Rica, Equatorial Guinea, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Kenya, Latvia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia

Entities represented by observers

European Community

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Centre for International Forestry Research, International Organization of La Francophonie, International Tropical Timber Organization